

Message Text

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14

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 EB-11 GAC-01 SAJ-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-09 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12 IO-13 COME-00 TRSE-00

OMB-01 T-03 AID-20 RSR-01 /153 W

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R 100855 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3099

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USINT CAIRO BY POUCH

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL/ MADRAS 8730

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PFOR, ETRD, IN, YO, EG

SUBJ: VISIT OF YUGOSLAV PREMIER BIJEDIC

1. SUMMARY: DURING FIVE- DAY VISIT TO INDIA OF YUGOSLAV PREMIER, INDO- YUGOSLAV TALKS CONCENTRATED ON BILATERAL ECONOMIC ISSUES AND ON PREPARATIONS FOR SEPTEMBER NON- ALIGNED CONFERENCE AT ALGIERS, WHERE BOTH COUNTRIES HOPE TO FOCUS ATTENTION ON ECONOMIC COOPERATION AMONG NON- ALIGNED. END SUMMARY.

2. PRESIDENT YUGOSLAV FEDERAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL BIJEDIC, ACCOMPANIED BY FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE OFFICIALS, VISITED DELHI, AGRA AND BOMBAY MARCH 2-9, ON TRIP WHICH WILL TAKE HIM TO SRI LANKA, MALAYSIA, SINGAPORE, AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BANGLADESH AND NEPAL. VISIT HERE WAS GIVEN EXTENSIVE, FRIENDLY COVERAGE BY PRESS. JOINT COMMUNIQUE (COPY POUCHED BELGRADE AND DEPT) POINTED UP QTE IDENTITY OR CLOSENESS UNQTE OF TWO SIDES' POSITIONS AND ATTENTION GIVEN TO EXPANSION BILATERAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS AND PREPARATIONS FOR FORTHCOMING NON- ALIGNED CONFERENCE. INDIAN (DEPUTY HEAD MEA EAST EUROPEAN DESK RANGANATHAN) AND YUGOSLAV OFFICIALS (MINISTER- COUNSELOR PEJIC AND SOUTH ASIA DEPARTMENT HEAD CICANOVIC) GAVE US FOLLOWING RUN- DOWN ON TALKS.

2. MRS GANDHI GAVE FULL SUPPORT TO YUGOSLAV VIEW THAT IN PREPARING FOR ALGIERS CONFERENCE NON- ALIGNED SHOULD DEVOTE SPECIAL ATTENTION TO INTENSIFICATION ECONOMIC COOPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. WHILE BOTH SIDES RECOGNIZED NEED FOR LDC' S TO CONTINUE BLOCK PRESSURES IN UNCTAD AND GATT FOR BETTER DEAL IN TRADE WITH DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, THEY HOPED TO GIVE POSITIVE TONE TO DISCUSSION ECONOMIC ISSUES AT ALGIERS BY DIRECTING ATTENTION TO SPECIFIC WAYS IN WHICH NON- ALIGNED COULD COOPERATE AMONG THEMSELVES. EXPANSION INDO- YUGOSLAV ECONOMIC RELATIONS COULD PROVIDE USEFUL EXAMPLE.

3. YUGOSLAV MINISTER- COUNSELOR PEJIC TOLD US MIDDLE EAST WOULD ALSO BE MAJOR SUBJECT AT ALGIERS. CONTRARY TO REPORT IN INDIAN PRESS, HE SAID YUGOSLAVIA WAS NOT PROMOTING PROPOSAL TO DECLARE MEDITERRANEAN ZONE OF PEACE AS TOPIC FOR NON- ALIGNED CONFERENCE. QUERIED WHETHER YUGOSLAVS WOULD CONTINUE TO SUPPORT MEMBERSHIP OF SOUTH VIETNAM PRG, PEJIC SAID DECISION TAKEN LAST YEAR AT GEORGETOWN CONFERENCE REMAINED IN EFFECT. HOWEVER, STATUS OF PRG AT ALGIERS LIKELY TO DEPEND ON SITUATION IN SOUTH VIETNAM IN SEPTEMBER.

4. INDIANS AND YUGOSLAVS BOTH EXPRESSED DESIRE TO INTENSIFY BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS, AND CONTACTS WITH EGYPTIANS, IN PREPARING FOR ALGIERS CONFERENCE. BOTH WERE ALSO AWARE OF NEED TO AVOID GIVING IMPRESSIO OTHER NON- ALIGNED THAT THEY WERE TAKING OVER TOO BIG A ROLE. THEY SAID NON- ALIGNED CONFERENCE WILL PROBABLY BE DISCUSSED AGAIN IN LATE MARCH WHEN HIGH LEVEL EGYPTIAN AND YUGOSLAV OFFICIALS COME TO DELHI FOR RENEWAL TRI- PARTITE ECONOMIC AGREEMENT. BROADER CONSULTATIONS ON SPECIFIC TOPICS FOR ALGIERS CONFERENCE AGENDA WILL BEGIN IN MAY AT FOREIGN MINISTER LEVEL PREPARATORY COMMITTEE MEETING AT KABUL.

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5. EXPANSION BILATERAL INDO- YUGOSLAV TRADE AND ECONOMIC

COOPERATION WAS MAJOR SUBJECT DISCUSSION DURING BIJEDIC' S VISIT. INDIANS PARTICULARLY WERE HOPEFUL OF INCREASING EXPORTS TO YUGOSLAVIA SINCE BILATERAL TRADE WAS SHIFTED FROM RUPEE TO CONVERTIBLE BASIS AT BEGINNING OF YEAR. POSSIBLE INDIAN PURCHASE OF THREE LARGE YUGOSLAV TANKERS, YUGOSLAV COLLABORATION IN INDIAN SHIP BUILDING, AND INDIAN EXPORT RAIL WAGONS AND ENGINEERING GOODS WERE AMONG SUBJECTS CONSIDERED. WHILE NO FIRM ORDERS WERE PLACED, INDIAN TEAM LED BY ADDITIONAL COMMERCE SECRETARY SHAH PLANS TO FOLLOW UP ON TRADE EXPANSION IN VISIT TO BELGRADE LATER THIS MONTH.

6. INDIAN PRESS PLAYED UP PASSAGE IN COMMUNIQUE ON YUGOSLAV SUPPORT FOR INDIAN EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE DURABLE PEACE IN REGION AND STRESS BY BOTH SIDES ON URGENCY RECOGNITION EXISTING POLITICAL REALITIES AND DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS AMONG STATES CONCERNED. EDITORIAL IN PRO- CONGRESS NATIONAL HERALD SAID MISUNDERSTANDING OVER BANGLADESH HAD BEEN SUFFICIENTLY EXPLAINED. THIS REGARD, MRS GANDHI EXPRESSED PARTICULAR GRATITUDE IN BANQUET SPEECH FOR PRESIDENT TITO' S RECENTLY EXPRESS UNDERSTANDING OF INDIAN POSITION.

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